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<u>Application</u> <u>for</u> United States Letters Patent

METHOD FOR STEREOSCOPIC MEASURING IMAGE POINTS AND DEVICE FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD

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1

METHOD FOR STEREOSCOPIC MEASURING IMAGE POINTS AND DEVICE FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[001] This Application claims priority from International Application

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention.

[002] The invention relates to stereometry, particularly to non-contact methods of objectice determination of an object's spatial characteristics determination by it's its stereoscopic images. The invention and can be used in photogrammetry, medicine, construction, architecture, biology, systems of object identification, natural sources research, assessing risks of natural and maneused made disasters and the effects thereof and for other similar purposes.

(2) Description of the related art

[003] There is a known method of stereoscopic measuring of image points, which consists of a-stereoscopic measuring of a stereo-model by determining the position of the aiming axisaxes of the eyes, relative to the main optical axis of the monitoring system and tracking the monitoring results by determining the position of the aiming axis of eyes, which is the closest to the one elaimed here; (SU No. 551504, GOIC 11/04, 25.03.1977).

[004] The weak points of said method are:

- [005] Absence of the visual control of the stereo-images monitoring process, and, therefore, low measuring productivity.
- [006] Low precision of determining the position of the aiming axis of eyes at the moment of eye focusing.
- [007] Eye fixation is determined by the physiological features of the human vision; it is a transitional process of a-sight fixation at the time of focusing on any point of the subject during eertain-a period of time. The said method implies the detection of the moment of focus moments based on the base of the an amplitude analysis and of position speed change of the aiming axisaxes of eyes; but, But because the human eye continuously makes micro-movements, sight fixation is not a geometric point which is stable in time and space, but a zone of undetected shape, which is being formed in some range of time. Since the concrete points with the discrete data are required for the photogrammetric construction, the use of fixations determined by the method described, does not allow detecting the position of the aiming axis of eyes with the precision required for the photogrammetric measuring precision.
- [008] On the other hand, because of the individual lateral particularities differences, the movements of the left and right eye are not synchronie, that synchronous. That is why the selected fixations do not determine the moment; when both eyes look at the same point of the subject.
- [009] The principal scheme of the device (SU No. 551504, G01C 11/04. 25/03/1977), which allows carrying out the method of stereoscopic method of measuring the image points, is already known.
- [010] The described principal scheme of the device consists of thea photogrammetric device of the analytic type, containing the processor inside; with

thea built-in system of image entry into thea television and automates and eye movements' electronic analyzers on the base of vidicons.

- [011] The device is assigned to measure the photographic images using thea prism-cube with a partly silver-plated internal edge for the construction of the observer's eve image in thea television automate automated vidicon ocular.
- [012] The weak points of the principal scheme of the described device are:
- [013] lack of the "feedback" system (i.e. reflection of the measuring data on the images themselves), which leads to lack of observation control.
- [014] lack of precise compensation mechanism of the for head movement, because the compensation offered in the for head movement device is based on the measuring of an eye glarereflection, which is formed by infrared sources of radiation and does not take into consideration the geometrically uneven shape of the eye, which causes nonlinearity of change of the glare position at the time of eye movement; besides, while the head position is changing at the time of focusing on the point of the image, the eye makes some compensating movements, which also leads to the nonlinear modification of the glare positions,
- [015] impossibility impossibility of the precise discrete fixation of the measuring data with the use of the systems, which are built on the base of the television automates-with the analog vidicons.
- [016] lowLow precision of the detection of the eye-center of the pupil of the eye, which is -caused by low contrast of the human eye images, if the light sources assigned only for images highlighting images are used.

- [017] lossesLosses of the optical radiation at the time of passing through the prism-cube with the partially silver-plated internal edges.
- [018] small range of vision of the optical systems, which are used in analog photogrammetric devices.
- [019] There is a device of the precise detection of the sight-which can precisely detect the direction of sight. (A Precise Eye-Gaze Detection and Tracking System, A.Perez, M.L.Cordoba, A. Garcia, R. Mendez, M.L. Munoz, JL. Pedraza, F. Sanchez, WSCG'2003, February 3-7, 2003 Plzen, Czech Republic), earrying out the method of Eye Gaze Detection, which is the closest to claimed berein.
- [021] The weak points of the described device are lack of precise compensation of the head movements and necessity of for use the video-cameras with a very high definition. Movements of the head are detected in the device by the from images of observer's face (in particular, by identification of the eyes on the entire face image), which is done by the wide-angle video-camera for tracking the head. Parts of the face have some relative movements, that is why they can not be used as the stable basiebase points of the head, and that is why the method used in the device is not strict precise and, therefore, cannot comply with the requirements for high-precision measuring. The device presumes the use of only one video-camera to receive the eye images, but because the eyes of the observer are located at some distance from each other—in_ In addition to the images of the eyes there is insignificant information data, eapturing captured by the camera (image of the that part of the face in the bridge of nose area). Therefore, in order

to receive precise enough images, it is necessary to increase the requirements for the camera's definition capacity, i.e. to use <u>a</u> matrix of large dimension in the video-cameras, <u>but</u>. <u>But</u> increase of the matrix dimension leads to increase of the volume of the incoming video-information—<u>and</u>, <u>which</u> noticeably <u>increasingincreases</u> the requirements for the productivity and speedy action of the video-capture plate. The invention solves the problem of increasing the productivity of measuring the spatial characteristic of the object by its images on the stereoscopic pictures.

[022] <u>Development of a method and apparatus for non-contact</u> stereometry which can determine the fixation points of the eyes with increased precision represents a great improvement in the field of stereometry and satisfies a long felt need of engineers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- [023] The present invention is a method of measuring stereoscopic image points comprising the steps of: construction of a stereoscopic model of an object using a pair of overlapping images; determination of the aiming vectors of the eyes during stereoscopic perception of that model; recording aiming vector data at the moment of eye fixation, by computing a projection of the area of fixation of the observed model on a monitor screen, for each eye; and calculating a typical point of the object being observed.
- [024] The typical point can be identified for the left and right eye by time synchronization. Additionally, the typical point can be calculated using a vectors coplanarity equation.
- [025] The method should be calibrating before starting observations by: observation of test-objects, with known position data in a main monitor, comparing positions of the centers of the pupils of the eyes with a camera; and selection of the mathematic dependencies, describing mutual transformations of the position data.

- [026] <u>During calibration, test objects are presented for observation with different conditions, such as: time, duration, order of appearance, location, size, shape, color, background, static appearance and dynamic appearance.</u>
- [027] <u>During observation, visual control of measuring can be done on the monitor screen by imprinting color markers into an area of image, corresponding to the fixations.</u>
- [028] <u>Visual control of measuring can be done on the monitor screen by modifying the color parameters of the area of the observed image corresponding to the fixations.</u>
- [029] Compensation for an observer's head movements can be calculated by comparing motion of the aiming vectors of both eyes with observations of movements of the observer's head. Alternatively, compensation for an observer's head movements can be calculated by tracking the movements of several marks fixed on the observer's head.
- [030] The observer's head movements can be tracked by marks fixed close to the observer's eyes and images of the marks captured by video-cameras tracking the observer's eyes movements. Parameters of head movement are preferably detected on two different planes. The marks are specially shaped, preferably ellipsoidal.
- [031] The position of the pupil of each eye during eye movement can be determined in three-dimensional space by receiving two images of each eye by two synchronized video-cameras, fixed on opposite sides of a head.
- [032] The present invention is also a device for the stereoscopic measuring of the position data of image points comprising: a left video-camera for tracking movements of an observer's left eye; a right video-camera for tracking movements of the observer's right eye; a video-camera for tracking the observer's head movements: a video-capture system for allowing capturing of an image by a

personal computer; a monitor for displaying the image; and a stereo-observation system for allowing the observer to observe stereoscopic images.

- [033] The stereo observation system can include a construction made in the shape of eyeglasses. Preferably, the eyeglasses include first specially shaped marks located in the vertical plane so that images of the first specially shaped marks are captured by the left and right video cameras. The special shape is preferably ellipsoidal.
- [034] The eyeglasses may also include second specially shaped marks which are located on the horizontal plane and a mirror fixed above the observer's head, whereby the video-camera is aimed so as to capture at the same time part of the observer's head and a reflection in the mirror of the second specially shaped marks. Again, the special shape is ellipsoidal.
- [035] The invention may further include: an additional right video camera installed to track movements of the right eye; and an additional left video camera installed to track movements of the left eye.
- [036] The invention may also include an additional monitor for visual control and operating the process of observation.
- [037] The invention may also include a system for infrared highlighting of the observer's eyes.
- [038] The invention may also include infrared color filters in front of the right and left video cameras.
- [039] The problem can be solved by the following: according to the invention in the method of stereoscopic measuring of image points; including: construction of a stereoscopic model based on two overlapping images, detection of the position of the aiming axisaxes of the eyes in stereoscopic perception of that model, and recording the observation results at eye fixation moments—the, The projection of the sight fixation area on the monitor screen withof the images

observed <u>images</u> is computed and the typical points of the observed object, corresponding with those areas, on the fragments of digital stereo-images, are selected.

- [040] There are additional choices to carry out the method, for which it is reasonable:
- [041] to identify typical points of the same name of the observed subject, which are selected on the fragments of the digital stereo-images, correlating with areas of sight fixation, for the left and right eye by time synchronization;
- [042] ¥010 identify typical points of the same name of the observed subject, which are selected on the fragments of the digital stereo-images, correlating with areas of the sight fixation, for the left and right eye, starting with the condition of crossing of the corresponding rays, determined by the vectorsycctors' coplanarity equation;
- [043] to do the calibration of the system before starting the observation, by observation of the image with test-objects with the known position data in the system of the position data of the main monitor, comparing the position data of the pupils of the eyes, determined in the system of position data of the video-camera, with the position data of the test objects, shown on the main monitor, and the subsequent mathematic dependencies, describing mutual transformations of position data.
- [044] Atat the time of system calibration, to position the test objects for observation in different conditions (for example, time, duration and order of appearance of the test objects, disposition, size, shape and color of the test objects, surrounding background, static or dynamic conditions of the test object appearance);

- [045] while observing, to visually control the measuring data on the screen of the main monitor by imprinting the color markers into the image area, coordinating with that fixation;
- [046] To to do a visual control of measuring on the main monitor screen by modifying the color parameters of the area on the stereo-image, corresponding with that fixation:
- [047] To to do the compensation of the observer's head movements by computing the movement in the position of the aiming axisaxes of the eyes by with images of certain parts of the observer's head.
- [048] To to do the compensation of the head movement of the observer by tracking several marks, fixed on the head of the observer;
- [049] To to track the head movement by the marks fixed close to the eyes in a way to get the images of those marks captured by the video-cameras, recordingwhich record the observer's eyes movements;
- [050] To to make the marks for tracking the observer's eye movements in a special (for example, ellipsoid) shape, what which allows detecting precisely the position and orientation of the mark, and, accordingly, movements of the observer's head-;
- [051] Fo to detect the position data of the motion of the head in two mutually perpendicular planes;
- [052] To to detect the pupil of the eye position while recording the eyes movements of the eyes in three-dimensional space by receiving two images of each eye by two synchronized video-cameras, fixed with on different foreshorteningsides of the head.
- [053] The problem can be solved by the additional input, according to the invention, the. The construction is made in the shape of an eyeglasses frame

with the specially shaped marks, positioned on the vertical plane, which is incorporated into the content of the device for stereoscopic measuring image points, consisting. It consists of two video-cameras for recording the eye movements, a video-cameras for tracking the head movements, a system of the image for video-capture by of the image by a personal computer, a monitor for displaying the Image, image, and a system of stereo-surveillance, which allowing to observe observation of stereoscopic images, in a way to get captured by the so that eye movements recording are recorded by cameras

- [054] Additional versions of the device are possible, wherein it is reasonable to do the following:
- [055] Fo-to install the additional specifically shaped marks, located on the horizontal plane, into the eyeglasses frame and to install a mirror, placed above the observer's head, into the device; in which connection to install the with a video-camera for tracking the head movements in a special way for capturing at the same time—the-part of the head and the reflection in the eyeglasses frame mirror with the specially shaped marks placed on the horizontal plane on it;
- [056] Feto install in the system, in addition to the main two videocameras for tracking the movements of each eye separately, two additional videocameras, placed in a way to synchronically record the movements of each eye by the main and the additional video-cameras from two points;
- [057] To to install an additional monitor for visual tracking the observation and operation of the observation process;
- [058] Foto install then system of the for infrared highlighting of the area around the eyes area;
- -[0.59] To to install infrared color filters on the cameras to cut off the parasite highlighting in the visible range of the spectrum.

- [042] The mentioned above advantages and also the particularities of that invention explained by the best versions of it's carrying out with the references to the enclosed figures:
- [060] An appreciation of the other aims and objectives of the present invention and an understanding of it may be achieved by referring to the accompanying drawings and description of a preferred embodiment.

BRIFF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [061] Figure No.1 typical trajectories of the eye at the time of sight fixation while focusing on the point of the object;
- [062] Figure No.-2 scheme of the stereoscopic observation of the stereo-Images on the monitor screen;
- [063] Fig. No.ure 3 and Fig. No.ure 4 general view of the device for measuring the three-dimensional position data based on its stereo-images;
- [064] Fig.-No.ure 5 eyeglasses frame with the specifically shaped marks (for example, ellipsoidal shape), for the recording of the head movements;
- [065] Fig. No. are 6 scheme of locations of the main and additional video-cameras for the recording of the eve movement in three-dimensional space.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[066] While the present invention is described herein with reference to illustrative embodiments for particular applications, it should be understood that the invention is not limited thereto. Those having ordinary skill in the art and access to the teachings provided herein will recognize additional modifications, applications, and embodiments within the scope thereof and additional fields in which the present invention would be of significant utility.

[067] Construction of the three-dimensional model of the object in the real time while focusing on it's visual copy on two flat stereo-images can be done by tracking the observer's eyes micro-movements of the observer's eyes and recording the sight fixations; with the subsequent computing the multitude of the points of intersection of the corresponding (paired) rays, determinating the homogenicand determining the homogenicand electroning the homogenicand determining the homogenicand control to the geometric surface of the object.

[068] The determination of the sight fixations can be done by dividing the basic consecution of the eye movement contents into areas of fast movement (saccades) and areas of the sight stabilization (fixations) separately for each eye. On the fig.1 The Figure I, the typical trajectories of the eye are pictured at the time of the sight stabilization while focusing on the point of the object—areas.

Areas of fixations 1 (are marked with dotted lines). As a rule, detection of the point of fixation 2 (-highlighted by the firmsolid line) can be done by computing the simple geometric average or the average weighted centroid of the points of the sight trajectory in the limits of the fixation area 1 (fig.1), however. However, as it is shown on the fig.Figure 1, for that, the problem of vagueness -of choice of the concrete points of the-fixation 2 occurs, which is caused by significant dispersion of the points of trajectory of the-eye movement in the limits of fixation area 1.

[069] It is suggested to solve that vagueness in the following way. Because the purpose of the stereoscopic measuring is to determine the spatial characteristics of the object, the observer focuses on the typical points of the object, making the object different from the environment and determining it sizes shape and size. It is naturally to assume, that the projection of the sight fixation area <u>L</u> on the observed image on the monitor screen contains one or several of those points. Position data of those points on the digital image can be found automatically, applying the Harris algorithms, KLT or similar.

- [070] In practice, the algorithms described can select several typical points on the image fragment, corresponding with that fixation area_1. Because a human being, physiologically, can-not stabilize his/her sight on two different points of an_object, it is suggested to synchronize by time the fixation points 2, selected in the fixation areas 1 of the left and right eye with the use of algorithms for searching the typical points on the image. Time synchronization allows to decrease reduction in ambiguity of the detection of the typical points on the image in the limits of the fixation area, corresponding to the focusing on the object by two eyes at the same time; however, However, because of the lateral particularities of the certaingsymmetries of each individual (dynamic asymmetry of one of the eyes, i.e. some "delay"... gap", which is similar to the "right-hander, left-hander" effect), that direction still can-not comply with the actual state of the corresponding rays, pre-existing at the time of focusing on the concrete point of the object.
- [071] That ambiguity is solved by the analysis of the geometric intersection of the aiming rays of the left and right eye at the time of stereoscopic focusing on the point of the object.
- [072] The characteristics of the human binocular vision are such; that horizontal spatial parallax P between the pair of the corresponding points aga_ and aga on two images, located on the same plane (-with the condition of their separate observation by the eyes, fig.Figure 2) causes in human being beings the sensation of perception of the certain point, located out of the plane. As it is shown on the fig.Figure 2, -the plane D is a display-plane with the stereo-images, on which the observer's eyes are focusing, and axis R_s and R_s are R_L R_R is the vision Axisaxis which are corresponding with the corresponds to the left L and right R eye, and B is an eyesthe eye base. While focusing separately on two corresponding points aga and axis R_s are flected on the left and right image of the stereo-pair, the image of the point A of the object's virtual model, formed as a

result of -intersection of the sight $Axis R_1$ and R_2 X_1 X_2 . Is formed in the human brain. The condition of This point is the geometric intersection of the corresponding rays is determined by the condition of belonging of the vectors R_2R_3 and R_4 R_2R_3 in the same plane, passing through the eyes base B. That condition is written by the vectors coplanarity equation: B $(R_4R_1 \times R_2R_3) = 0$

- [073] Therefore, in the method suggested, the <u>candidate points-</u>
 "candidates" 2, selected in the limits of the corresponding fixation areas 1 for the left L and right R eyes, first have to be synchronized, and then have to be checked for compliance with the condition of vectors compliancity. The belongings of vector coplanarity. That the corresponding vectors to R_L = R_R are in the same primary plane is a strict geometric condition for observation of the certainspecific point on the stereo-image, and, therefore. Therefore, the multitude of the points of intersection of the corresponding (conjugate) rays, satisfying the condition of the complanarity coplanarity, while focusing on the stereo-stereo model, determines the homogenichomorganic virtual surface, which is identical -to the geometric surface of the observed object.
- [074] To carry-out the suggested method of stereoscopic measuring image points, the device (Fig-Figure 3 and Fig-Figure 4) is offered, containing video-cameras 3 and 4 with infrared color filters 5 and 6 for recording the eyes eyes 7 and 8 movements 7 and 8 accordingly, Accordingly, the video-camera 9 and the mirror 10 to-track the head 11 movements 111. A system of video-capture captures the image by the on a personal computer, the The Main Monitor 12 for output—ofshows the stereo-image under review, the The additional (controlling) monitor 13 to-visually controlcontrols the process of observation and to operateoperates the observation process, system of stereo-surveillance 14, system of infrared eyes highlighting 15 and eyeglasses frame 16 with the specially shaped marks, for example, in ellipsoidal shape. 17 and 18 (fig. 5).

- [075] Fig-Figure 5 represents the eyeglasses frame 16 with the specifically shaped marks, for example, in ellipsoidal shape. 17 and 18, the for example, in ellipsoidal shape. The marks 17 are located in the vertical plane in a way to makeso that their images to getcan be captured by the corresponding cameras 3 and 4, recording the eyes eyes 7 and 8 movements 7 and 8 accordingly, and the __ The special marks 18 are located on the horizontal plane in a way to getso that their image is captured through the mirror 10 by the video-camera 9. The images 17 and 18 are used for tracking the head 11 movements tracking.
- [076] The scheme of the location of the main 3 and 4, and the additional video-cameras 19 and 20 for tracking the eyes eyes' 7 and 8 movements 7 and 8 in the three-dimensional space is represented on the figFigure 6.
- [077] The device for measuring the spatial characteristic of the object by its stereo-images works the following way.
- [078] For observation of the object based on its stereo-images, the stereoscopic images are displayed on the screen of the main monitor 12-and-the ealibration. Calibration of the system has to be done for the certaineach different observer, at the meantime. For calibration, the observer observes static and dynamic test objects, displayed on that monitor 12. The main idea of the calibration is to determine the dependencies between the position data of the centers of the pupils of the eyes centers 7, 8, captured by the video-cameras 3 and 4 at the moments of sight stabilization during the observation of the test objects on the monitor screen 12, and the position data of those objects with the subsequent consideration of the psycho-physical particularities of the certainspecific observer at the time of observation and analysis of those results. The calibration can be done either in monocular regime (both eyes focusing on the a mono-image of the test objects on the monitor screen), or in stereoscopic

regime (focusing on the virtual models of the three-dimensional test objects, using the system-for-stereo-viewing system).

- [079] Directly, the observations has to be doneObservations are performed by focusing on the stereoscopic images of the observed object with the fixation of the sight trajectory with the consideration of the calibration results, detection of the fixation areas and points -with the control by the condition of coplanarity and the following determination of the spatial position data of the object. The determination of the spatial position data -of the points of the object surface can be done by the analysis of the lengthwise Parallax P withby the use of the set of the-two-dimensional position data of the corresponding points in the fixation areas 1 on the base of transformations, which are used in photogrammetry or projective stereometry. The construction of a three-dimensional model is done by orientation of the virtual model constructed, relative to the set of the fixed basic points, assigning the external system of the-position data of the object.
- [080] The compensation of the Compensation of head movements is realizaedaccomplished by determination of the movements factors by the computed movements of the image with the by use of the special marks 17 and 18 and entry of the corresponding compensating amendments in the position data of the pupil of the eye, the. The camera, tracking the head movements, must be synchronized with the video-cameras 3, 4, tracking the eyeseyes' movements.
- [081] The use of the additional video-cameras 19 and 20 for tracking the eyeseves' micro-movements allows to determine the determination of the three-dimensional position of the pupil of the eye and to increase the precision of the sight direction computing.
- [082] Control of the observations is realized by the feedback communication, when the fixation areas <u>1</u> with the correctly calculated location of

the point of intersection of the corresponding rays are marked on the screen of the controlling—monitor 13 by imprinting the color markers, and on the screen of the main Monitor 12 by changing the color parameters of the part of the image, corresponding with that fixation. The feedback makes it possible for the observer not only to control the progress of work (i.e. to see the areas of the image, in which the review is already done), but to estimate the quality of the observation as well, analyzing the color of the markers, imprinted into the image on the controlling monitor 13-(the___The_color of the markers is determined by the values of divergence of the residual vertical parallaxes, calculated with the condition of coplanarity and corresponding with the certain points of fixations-)fixation 2.

Because the mechanism of feedback shows the areas, where the observations have been already done, the control results also can be used at the time of recommencement of work after interruption.

[083] The claimed method and the device of stereoscopic measuring image points can be utilized industrially in computer systems, assignedused for digital stereoscopic measuring as well as in the fields like digital interaction photometry, image detection, three-dimensional measuring in medicine, biology, natural sources research, mine workings, natural sources workings, assessing risks of the natural and man-eausedmade disasters and the effects thereof, interactive teaching systems, systems for stereo-vision tests, system of professional aptitude tests, computer and television games. The industrial adaptability of the invention has been proved by the tests of the sample of the device, carrying out the claimed method.

- [084] The following reference numerals are used on Figures 1 through 6:
- [085] <u>1 area of fixation</u>
- [086] 2 point of fixation

[087] 3 left video camera 4 right video camera [088] 5 left infra red filter [089] [090] 6 right infra red filter [091] 7 right eve [092] 8 left eye [093] 9 head movement tracking video camera [094] 10 head movement tracking mirror [095] 11 head 12 main monitor [096] 13 control monitor [097] [098] 14 stereo-surveillance system [099] 15 infra red light [0010] 16 eyeglasses [100] 17 vertical marker 18 horizontal marker [101] [102] 19 right additional video camera [103] 20 left additional video camera [104] P parallax

at left corresponding point

[105]

- [106] a_R right corresponding point
- [107] D display plane
- [108] R_I R_R vision axis
- [109] L left eye
- [110] R right eve
- [111] B eye base
- [112] object virtual model
- [113] Thus, the present invention has been described herein with reference to a particular embodiment for a particular application. Those having ordinary skill in the art and access to the present teachings will recognize additional modifications, applications and embodiments within the scope thereof.
- [114] It is therefore intended by the appended claims to cover any and all such applications, modifications and embodiments within the scope of the present invention.